

REMARKS

Claims 12-30 and 34-44 are pending in this application. Claims 12-30 and 34-44 are rejected. Claims 12, 22, and 28 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 22 and 28 as shown above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 22 and 28 are now in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the possible reinstatement of the rejection of claims 12-30 and 34-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,416,232 (Soday), Applicants have amended claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 12, and claims 13-30 and 34-44 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Soday discloses a product including an organic material, preferably absorbent, coated or impregnated with a butadiene resin applied in the form of an emulsion. The “organic material” includes various materials of the character of wood, pulp, paper, cardboard, textile fibres, both natural and synthetic, fabricated textile products made therefrom, burlap, felt. (Column 1, lines 34-38). Felted articles can be produced. (Column 2, lines 3-8).

In contrast, claim 12, as amended, recites in part “applying a dispersion of particulate polymeric material to a batt of fibres, thermally activating the dispersion of particulate polymeric material and thereby softening the particulate polymeric material such that the particulate polymeric material undergoes at least partial flow and fuses to itself and to the batt of fibres; wherein the activated dispersion of particulate polymeric material results in a layer which forms the surface of the industrial fabric and which includes the activated dispersion of particulate polymeric material extending vertically within the batt of fibres, the industrial fabric being a press

felt of a papermaking machine.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by Soday.

Soday discloses that the organic material can be a felted article. Applicants submit that this is too broad to disclose the very specific limitation of claim 1 – that is, a press felt of a papermaking machine. Thus, Applicants submit that Soday does not disclose the article being a press felt of a papermaking machine.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 12, and claims 13-30 and 34-44 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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